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Equal Rights

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SATURDAY,
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Equal Rights Emissaries at the Hague

President Heemskerk and Delegates from the Inter-American Commission of Women, National Woman's Party, U. S. A., and Six Point Group, England, coming out of the Peace Palace at The Hague after a session of the Conference on Codification of International Law. From left to right: Simone Tery, writer (France); Doris Stevens, chairman of Inter-American Commission of Women; Margaret Whittemore, delegate from National Woman's Party (U. S. A.); His Excellency M. Heemskerk, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, former Minister of Justice, former Minister of State, President of the Codification Conference; Ella Riegal, State legislative chairman of National Woman's Party, Philadelphia (U. S. A.); Lucy Branham, Baltimore (U. S. A.); Helen A. Archdale, Chairman Nationality Committee, Six Point Group (England).

Equal Rights

OFFICIAL ORGAN
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144 B St. N. E.
Washington, D. C.
Phone, Lincoln 1366
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at 19 West Chase Street
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Phone, Vernon 3279

Edith Houghton Hooker . . . Editor
Ruby A. Black . . . Managing Editor
Dora G. Ogle . . . Business Manager

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution No. 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929, by Representative Frederick W. Magrady Pennsylvania.

A Normal Development

SOME time ago the *Christian Science Monitor* made a suggestion which the women of this country could follow up to good advantage.

"Has not the time come," asked the *Monitor*, "when the nation should draw upon the genius and devotion of women for service on the Supreme Court as well as for service in every other department of governmental life?"

The Supreme Court, which in a sense is the supreme governing tribunal of the United States, has had before it from time to time since its creation questions affecting the status of women in a direct and intimate way. In the past the decisions of this tribunal have almost uniformly been averse to the interests of women.

The Federal Suffrage Amendment was necessary to override the decision of the Supreme Court handed down in the time of Susan B. Anthony.

Welfare legislation for women only, in defiance of the specific phraseology of the Constitution, exists through the sanction of the Supreme Court. As a device for perpetuating the subordination of women in the United States, the Supreme Court is well deserving of its name.

Is it not appropriate, therefore, that effort should be made to cut the Gordian knot once and for all by securing the appointment of women as well as men to this supreme tribunal? Of what use is the Constitution of the United States to women if its most exact terminology can be made meaningless by the rationalization of its interpreters?

The *Christian Science Monitor* is right when it says, "The time has come when the presence of a woman jurist upon the supreme bench must be recognized as an altogether normal and likely development."

The Lesson of the Scrub-Women

WE COMMEND very heartily the efforts which, according to the press, certain Harvard alumni are making to raise money through voluntary subscriptions for the purpose of reimbursing the Harvard scrubwomen for losses sustained under the Massachusetts Minimum Wage Law. These women certainly deserve some compensation for the rough way in which they have been handled by the welfare workers.

We say "welfare workers" and not Harvard University, advisedly, for the rock that shattered the hopes of the Harvard scrubwomen was not the flinty heart of the overseers; it was the Minimum Wage Law.

According to their own statement the scrubwomen were getting along all right until the malign shadow of the Minimum Wage Law crossed their path. Then the trouble began. For Harvard University after all is not a philanthropic organization; it is an educational institution, and the alumni themselves desire that its administration shall be conducted along strictly business-like lines. That means in current standards that it shall pay the least and get the most it can for whatever money is expended from the exchequer.

The welfare workers doubtless are not aware that business, whether in a university or in a restaurant, is controlled by this hard-hearted philosophy.

We pity the Harvard scrubwomen and we hold it against the University that its parsimony was so great, but at the same time we believe that the real blame in the situation attaches not to the Harvard overseers, but to the unjust system of laws which prevents women from securing or continuing to hold the best jobs that they can find under the circumstances.

We suggest that after the Harvard alumni finish their task of compensating the Harvard scrubwomen for the losses they have sustained under the Minimum Wage Law in Massachusetts, they turn their attention to the sad plight of the thousands of other women elsewhere who are also suffering financially from sex-linked welfare legislation.

Possibly after they have raised a few of the many millions of dollars needed to make the balance true, they will decide with us that it is not charity that women in industry need, but justice.

Alma Lutz, chairman of the organization committee of the National Woman's Party, in an open letter to *The Nation*, sums up the whole situation splendidly. She says:

"This is not the first time in Massachusetts or in other States that the minimum wage law, which was designed to protect women, has interfered with their means of livelihood and forced them into even lower-paid employment. Any so-called protective legislation, such as the minimum-wage law, which applies to women and not to men, helps fasten the burden of low wages on women. Any group of workers whose right to work is restricted by law is hampered in competing with other workers. If minimum-wage laws are necessary, let them apply equally to men and women."

Mrs. Wiley Thanks President

MRS. HARVEY W. WILEY, chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party visited President Hoover April 14 at the White House to thank him in the name of the women of the country for the action taken by the United States at The Hague in voting against 40 other nations on the proposed world code, because it contains discriminations against women in nationality rights.

The resolution which was adopted unanimously by the National Council of the National Woman's Party, thanks the President for setting up a new standard of justice for the rest of the world to follow in establishing equality for women in all international relations.

In the letter which accompanied a copy of the resolution Mrs. Wiley said she desired to express to the President her personal pride in the action which her country had taken.

Mrs. Wiley appointed a committee headed by Mrs. Max Rotter of Wisconsin and Maud Younger of California to cooperate with Alice Paul, nationality chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in a campaign which they are launching for full nationality rights in the United States. Amendments are being made by Representative John L. Cable of Ohio to his nationality bill, reported out of the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization of the House of Representatives, that will remove all inequalities in the present law.

Mrs. Wiley was accompanied by Edith Ainge of Jamestown, New York.

The resolution adopted by the National Council at its meeting on April 12, read:

"WHEREAS, the plenipotentiaries of the United States at the Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law were called upon to vote on a convention relating to nationality prepared by the Nationality Committee of the conference, and

"WHEREAS, the convention contained seventeen articles, some of which provided for or permitted discriminations against women, and

"WHEREAS, the United States delegation voted against the entire convention because of the distinctions based on sex, and

"WHEREAS, the stand taken by the United States Government and the reason therefor establish a new standard of justice and progress, giving us a sense of pride in our country's action and confidence in the belief that our country has thus assumed leadership in establishing equality for women in all international relations; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Council of the National Woman's Party sends its congratulations and appreciation to the President of the United States, the Acting Secretary of State, and the plenipotentiaries to The Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President, to the Acting Secretary of State, and to the United States plenipotentiaries to The Hague Conference."

Copies were sent to Acting Secretary of State Joseph P. Cotton and will be sent to the members of the United States delegation to the Conference on the Codification of International Law, when they return to the United States. It is understood that David Hunt Miller, head of the United States delegation, has sailed for home bringing with him a copy of the world code.

Women Rulers

Radio Speech of Miss Katharine Anthony Over National Broadcasting Company System, Wednesday, April 16, 5 o'clock

THE list of women rulers in the world, according to the encyclopaedias, is not a very long one. Yet those who have made their way into the headlines of history have been conspicuously successful. You need only to think of Cleopatra, Boadica, and Catherine the Great to be reminded of great rulers who thoroughly knew their business. How does it happen that these and equally famous women sovereigns should have prospered in a profession so foreign to their sex? If the great mass of women were trained to subjection as John Stuart Mill said they were in 1869, how did it happen that these few were so splendidly capable in the opposite role when destiny called upon them to play it? Is it possible that women, even in their most subjugated state, have always carried a great deal of unrecognized responsibility and wielded a great deal of unrecognized authority and that the great women rulers have only differed from the rest of their sex in the amount of recognition that they received? Certainly women like Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth, and even the housewifely Maria Theresa of Austria were no amateurs at their trade. They could hardly have been descended from a line of clinging vines. You feel that in order to produce them nature must have made a great many experiments along that line before it achieved these triumphant specimens of their kind.

To speak of women rulers is equivalent to speaking of the past. With the decay of monarchies and the progress of democracies, women sink more and more into the background. Since 1776 we have had no woman president, whereas England has been ruled for a third of that time by a woman sovereign, and looks forward with equanimity to the possibility of being ruled by a woman again. How many years shall have elapsed, do you suppose, before a woman president shall be ruling in the White House? No doubt the time will come when the Salic law will cease to dominate American politics, but we cannot expect that day to break upon us soon.

Nowadays we are rather reluctant to admit that women ever were rulers. Historians are prone to the statement that the great women sovereigns were ruled by their councilors. No queen in history has suffered more in her reputation as a ruler than Queen Elizabeth from just this tendency. Her greatness has been attributed to everything but its proper cause—to the influence of her times, the talents of her ministers, especially Lord Burleigh, and last of all to her good luck. Even as shrewd a student of human nature as Lytton Strachey seems to hint that Queen Elizabeth profited by having a secret rabbit's foot. His most brilliant predecessor in the Elizabethan field, James Anthony Froude, thought that the secret of her successful reign was to be found in the acumen and genius of her secretary of state; whereas one who has made a study of this queen at close range should see, it seems to me, how markedly she rose above her councilors in matters of statecraft. It was her custom to draw them out one by one in private and if they afterwards altered their opinion at the general council table she reminded them of the fact. She was a masterly interviewer and was tireless at it. She kept her secretaries up until late at night probing their minds to the last nook and cranny. Her blazing eyes seemed to look right through them and rarely did one of her secretaries fail her in honesty and frankness. The few occasions when they did made epochs in English history.

She was a born diplomat. It was this talent which saved her and saved England. She and her little Protestant crew

were in a precarious position at the beginning of her reign. The frail passage of little Edward across the English scene had left little hope for a Protestant successor. The daughter of Anne Boleyn and Henry the Eight could not turn Catholic, though Spain and the Pope seem to have expected for a time that she might do so. There seemed no other salvation for her and England. There were extremists in her council who were ready for martyrdom; there were moderates who were ready to turn Catholic if occasion demanded; and there were even Catholics. Between these varieties of sentiment she was compelled to hold the balance and the diplomacy that she exerted to hold her council table together was only the beginning of it. Behind the individual councilors were popular supporters dividing England itself into antagonistic factions and behind these in turn were the countries of Europe. Can you imagine a weak hand holding so many reins or a weak heart realizing where they all led to? If she had faltered for a moment, if she had yielded to the natural feminine impulse to lay her head on a strong manly bosom and pour out her troubles, no matter which one she chose out of her environment, the whole structure would have been about her ears in an instant. We have only to observe the downfall of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, to realize what might have happened to Queen Elizabeth had her statecraft been less impeccable.

I DO not wish to indicate that Queen Elizabeth owed her success as a diplomat to her virgin state. Catherine the Great, who was what might be called her opposite in this respect, was no more inclined than Queen Elizabeth to lean upon others for the sake of their support. Her favorites were notoriously weak reeds. She ruled Russia without their aid. She was able to win over to her own side the most powerful statesmen of that country and the one who was at first most opposed to her. She made peace with Frederick the Great when her consort had been murdered for doing little more. She invented the partition of Poland, which, whatever a modern statesman like Lenin might think of it, was a triumphant example of statecraft in those days. She was only outwitted in her designs on Turkey and that by the concealed intervention of the rest of Europe, which, Christian as it was, did not want a Christian Turkey at the expense of the aggrandizement of Russia. Catherine the Great was naive here. She thought that she would do to the Turks what Queen Elizabeth had done to the Spanish Armanda. But the circumstances were different. Catherine had grown aggressive in her later years and the Turkish War was her great folly as the tragedy of the Earl of Essex was Queen Elizabeth's.

Nevertheless they were both great rulers, as great as the world has seen and the creators of an age to which they lent its splendor. If you go to Russia today you will see on every hand souvenirs of Great Catherine. The city of Leningrad is almost a memorial to her. As you pass through the palaces she left, the schools, the institutions, you almost come to the conclusion that she was Russia's last great ruler. None of the Romanoffs who succeeded her have left the imprint that she has. Little Sophie of Schleswig- Holstein, who had to accept the name of Catherine in Russia whether she liked to or not, lived to make the name a great one.

IF you turn to current English history and watch its trend from day to day you are reminded in many ways of Queen Elizabeth. The foundations of the empire on which the sun never sets were laid in her reign. She granted the first charter in the western world and the name of one of our proudest States is a memorial to her. She sent envoys to Russia by way of Archangel and her's was the first European power to make a trade agreement with Russia. Her shipbuilders invented the light cruiser which is still the trick card of the British Navy. In national politics she also forecast the future. She made terms with the Puritan Party, the logical ancestor of the Labor Party of today. The State church which she established exists with scarcely a change in the form in which she left it. The prayer book which she adopted has stood like the rock of Gibralter for three hundred years and not until the most recent times has the slightest change been made in it. The English language became in her reign the finished language which Shakespeare caught and transfixed for all time at the end of it. Even the type of aggressive spinster which Queen Elizabeth herself was set a style which has lasted down to the present day. She delighted in being called the Virgin Queen and was proud, as she once said, to have it written on her tombstone. She even set a fashion with her provinciality. No Englishman down to the present day apologizes for the quality though all the rest of the world is ashamed of it. Good Queen Bess made everything all right by sheer force of personality. No one has ever graced the position of ruler more than she did; no sovereign in history has surpassed her in prestige.

And now that the good old days of kings and queens are gone, or nearly so, how are the Catherines the Greats, the Queen Elizabeths, the Cleopatras, and the Maria Theresas, who may be born today, next year or next century, to express themselves? The heroic age is past. Dynasties have decayed. Women as well as men will have to forge their way to the front by some new untried method. The countries in which most of the old has been scrapped and the new is most surely on its way are America and Russia. But if you look about the American and the Russian scene for dominating women you see but few of them. You perceive them in all sorts of places where you formerly would have missed them—little girls marking the steel stock board in a woman broker's office; women running the electric cars through the streets of Moscow—but you don't see them on the board of commissars in Soviet Russia or in the President's cabinet in Washington.

PERHAPS as the world has become more and more mechanized, women have taken less interest in running it. If you think of the outstanding figures in these countries you are confronted at once with the images of Stalin and Ford. They are a summary of what is going on—the mechanization of government and industry. Perhaps the test of our mechanical age is the extent to which women will eventually take to it. While they are not turning their backs on it, they are not adding much to its glorious achievements. Whatever the opportunities for pre-eminence, women are passing them by. Perhaps they have decided to skip out the steel age and wait for a more congenial period to vindicate their talents. It might be argued that the great engineering feats, which are the chief glory of our day, require more physical strength than most women possess. But great rulers also need great physical reserves, and we have seen the devastating effects of four to eight years in the White House in our time. When we recall that Queen Elizabeth and Catherine the Great, not to mention Maria Theresa and Queen Victoria, kept it up for a generation, we are amazed at their sheer physical prowess. Although the pace of Elizabethan times, of eighteenth century Russia, and of the Victorian age was not equivalent to our own the responsibilities of queen and empress in those days were equal to those of a modern president and the strain of living up to them no less. Queen Elizabeth had energy rather than strength and, if I mistake not, that is what the flying genius of our time especially consists in. She had great endurance and nervous sensitivity — the stuff of which heroes are made in our material age. And so I do not think that it is lack of force and energy which keeps women in the rear instead of in the vanguard nowadays. They are either waiting for a more harmonious and less one-sided world to dawn upon us, or they are slowly adjusting themselves to the present, incubating some triumphant specimen of her sex who will one day casually mount a broomstick and fly to the moon.

The Use of Lead Paint by Women

By Winifred Le Sueur
Secretary of the Open Door International
(*From The Open Door, London, England*)

THE Open Door International desires to call attention to the fact that in all countries women are in danger, either of being turned out of well-paid employment, or of being denied admission to such employment, wherever the work entails the use of lead paint.

The causes of the prohibition of the use of lead paint by women are two-fold; firstly, there is an opinion generally held that women are more susceptible to lead poisoning than men, and secondly, the International Labor Office in 1921 adopted a convention, called the convention concerning the use of white lead in painting, which prohibits the use of white lead by women in any painting of an industrial character.

Article III of this convention states:

> "The employment of males under 18 years of age and of all females shall be prohibited in any painting work of an industrial character involving the use of white lead or sulphate of lead or other products containing these pigments."

After the first session of the International Labor Office in Washington in 1919 the governing body decided to include on the agenda of the 1921 conference the prohibition of the use of white lead in painting, and issued, as usual, a questionnaire. In this questionnaire no mention was made of the supposed special susceptibility of women to lead poisoning, and no enquiry as to the facts with regard to women was made. At the time of the adoption of the draft convention in 1921, no mention again was made of the use of lead paint by women, and no enquiry took place as to the supposed susceptibility of women to lead poisoning. A long debate took place between those who wished the use of white lead in painting to be prohibited for all workers, and those who wished to see its use regulated. As a deadlock seemed to have been reached, the session was adjourned for informal discussion, and when the session was resumed the clause quoted above was agreed to, without any previous discussion, investigation, or even mention of the work of women in lead paint.

This convention has now been ratified by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary (conditional), Latvia, Luxemburg, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Spain, and Sweden; which means that in these eighteen countries women are likely to be excluded from the well-paid occupation of house decoration, a new trade which had already attracted a certain number of women, and which will now, in those countries which ratified the convention, probably be closed to them for at least ten years, and until the governments of those countries can be persuaded to denounce the convention.

In Great Britain, which has not ratified the convention, but which has passed legislation regulating the use of lead paint by males, and prohibiting its use by females, it has been found convenient to interpret "work of an industrial character" as being all the work in painting which men usually do. As far as we know, the phrase "work of an industrial character" has never been legally defined, but a warning is given to other countries that their governments, as in Great Britain, are quite likely to put the same interpretation on this phrase.

THE reason underlying the prohibition of work in lead paint for women is that there is a widely held belief that women are more susceptible than men to lead poisoning, and also that lead is known to be an abortifacient. It is held, therefore, that it is in the interest (a) of the women themselves and (b) of the race, that women should be forbidden to work in lead. With regard to this question of susceptibility, the Open Door International desires to make known the following facts:

(a) Susceptibility of women to lead *poisoning.*

The two most important groups of known causes of lead poisoning and conditions predisposing to plumbism are:

(1) Malnutrition, the chief cause of which, in its turn, is poverty, due to low wages, and

(2) Anaemia, lack of personal hygiene and cleanliness, bad teeth, etc.

The Open Door International holds that such higher rates of incidence of lead poisoning as have occurred among women working in white lead have arisen in the past not from any sex proclivity, but from the fact that the women were underpaid and working in the worst possible conditions for personal hygiene and cleanliness.

In the United States, for example, in an investigation made by Dr. Alice Hamilton assistant professor of industrial medicine in the Harvard Medical School at Boston, U. S. A., in one series of cases examined, where the writer emphatically calls attention to the fact that the women were in comparison to the men underpaid, poorly housed, poorly fed, and subject to the worry and strain of supporting families on low wages, while none of these factors applied to the men, the rate of lead poisoning amongst 796 men was 4.8 per cent., whereas in 150 women working under the very different conditions cited, the rate was 19.3 per cent.

But in another series of cases in which the men and women were working under the same conditions as regards these contributory factors, the rate for 304 men was 15.7 per cent., and for the women, 243, 11.5 per cent.*

The enormous discrepancy thus obvious between the two observations illustrates the futility of the comparison of unlike conditions. Where the conditions are the same the rate of sex susceptibility seems to be slightly less in women than in men.

In Great Britain, also, an enquiry made in 1910 showed that there was a great prevalence of lead poisoning among women working in lead in the potteries. But the women workers in the potteries were notoriously the lowest paid, the poorest and least nourished, working in the most dangerous processes under the worst possible condtions—often without any proper washing or lavatory accommodation. We look upon them—and they should then have been looked on in this connection—not as a sex, but as a particular group of workers whose poverty, squalor, overwork, and under-payment was such as to make them specially susceptible to the malign influence of lead poison.

In short, no conclusive evidence has yet been brought forward (for an opinion unsupported by a scientific investigation of the facts is not evidence) to prove that women as a sex are more susceptible to lead poisoning than men.

(*b*) *Lead as a racial poison.*

On the other hand, lead is certainly a racial poison. The obvious results—abortions, miscarriages, still-births — have caused undue emphasis to be placed on the effects of plumbism in the mother as the determining factor. While there are differences of opinion as to the relative influence on progeny of paternal and maternal plumbism, there is a mass of evidence to show that paternal lead poisoning is so disastrous to the race (in view of several observers more disastrous than maternal plumbism) that there is no ground left for making regulations for women which do not apply to men: and that no other method than that of restrictions applied irrespective of sex will defeat racial poisoning.

Dr. Carrozi of Milan found that of 455 pregnancies of women, whose husbands were type-smelters, there were 277 living births, 117 still-births, and 67 miscarriages.

Of 199 pregnancies of women whose hus-

bands were lead mine workers, there were 36 living births, 108 still births, and 55 miscarriages.

Professor Lewin of Berlin: Of 7 women married to male lead workers, there were 32 pregnancies and only 2 living children.

Dr. Carrozi found that with leaded fathers there was a death and miscarriage rate of 51.6 per cent.

Frogia of Milan found with leaded fathers a death and miscarriage rate of 82 per cent.; and with leaded mothers, 44.1 per cent.*

Deneufbourg of France,† in a thesis on the effects of paternal plumbism on the products of conception, gives the following figures:

He divides cases into three groups:

(1) Women married to lead workers, but themselves free from lead.

(2) Women who were leaded, but married to men free from lead.

(3) Women leaded themselves, and married to leaded men.

The number of pregnancies, premature deliveries and still-births, also proportion of living children who died during the first year of life are shown in the following table:

	No. of Pregnancies	Abortion	Still-born	Per Cent.	Born Living	Survived 1st year	Per Cent. of living survived 1st year
Father leaded.....	442	66	47	25.5	329	246	74.4
Mother leaded.....	134	17	6	17	111	82	73.9
Both leaded.....	23	4	4	35	18	10	66.6

It is, of course, in the third group that the effect of lead is the most striking. If we compare the two other groups, the effect of paternal plumbism seems to be quite as disastrous as the effect of the maternal and indeed the abortion rate is actually higher. Professor Oui‡ mentions a case of Pinard's: that of a woman married to a lead poisoned man; she was pregnant five times, and always prematurely delivered of a dead child, but she afterwards bore to a healthy man a perfectly normal child. Pinard called it an experimental demonstration of the effects of paternal lead poisoning.

The fact that men equally with women transmit the evil effects of lead poisoning to their offspring cannot be controverted. The inference is obvious: that there must be stringent regulations for both sexes equally in any process which involves the use of lead; and that in the case of the painting industry women and men must be treated alike.

*Industrial Poisons in the United States. A. Hamilton. Macmillan, 1925.

*Sir Th. Oliver, "Lead Poisoning." Lewis, 1914.

†L'intoxication saturnine dans ses rapports avec la grossesse. Paris, 1906.

‡Influence du saturnisme paternal sur la grossesse et la produit de conception. Lille, 1907.

THE Open Door International, at its conference in Berlin on June 15 and 16, 1929, passed the following resolution:

This conference calls attention to the facts:

(a) that still-birth is liable to be caused by reason of lead poisoning in the father as it is by reason of lead poisoning in the mother; and

(b) that evidence does not show that women are more susceptible to lead poisoning than men.

And the conference demands that the Lead Paint Convention of the International Labor Organization which makes proposals for regulating the use of lead paint by men, but excludes women from industrial employment where the use of lead paint is involved, shall be so revised as to propose that women shall no longer be excluded from its use, but that regulations dealing with lead paint shall be the same for women as for men.

The Open Door International exists to promote the following object:

To secure that a woman shall be free to work and protected as a worker on the same terms as a man, and that legislation and regulations dealing with conditions and hours, payment, entry and training, shall be based upon the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker: and to secure for a woman, irrespective of marriage or childbirth, the right at all times to decide whether or not she shall engage in paid work and to ensure that no legislation or regulations shall deprive her of this right.

Had it, therefore, been proved that women are more liable than men to lead poisoning, the Open Door International, which considers that a woman should have the same rights and liberty of choice as male adults, would notwithstanding be opposed to women being prohibited from working in lead if they so desire.

The Open Door International is of opinion that women seeking work in lead should be informed of the risks they run, and instructed in the best means to avert them, and then left free to choose whether or not they will engage in such work. The attitude of the Open Door International is not biased, therefore, by any desire to disprove the susceptibility of women to plumbism, as its attitude would remain unchanged were it proved that such susceptibility did exist. But it is convinced by a careful study of existing literature on this subject that no such investigation on a large scale has yet been carried out, and that the supposed susceptibility of women to lead poisoning remains a mere opinion unsupported by reliable data. It is convinced that in cases where women have been found to suffer from lead poisoning in a higher proportion than men similarly employed, the circumstances in which the work has been carried out have been widely different, and that of all the causes predisposing to lead poisoning, the most important, malnutrition due to poverty owing to low wages, has been far more frequently present among women workers in lead than among men so employed, owing to the low scale of pay which the women have received in the past.

IN recent years certain women in Great Britain found in house decoration a new and attractive trade. Several firms engaged in this business and employed almost entirely women apprentices. These women had a keen appreciation of the precautions of cleanliness, etc., necessary to prevent plumbism. No case of lead poisoning occurred among them; but in Great Britain in 1926 legislation was introduced and passed prohibiting the employment of any fresh women apprentices to this trade where lead paint was used. No one can say how many women who would have taken up this work have thus been prevented from doing so, but two things are clear. First, that those women who would have taken up this employment will be driven instead into one of the other generally overcrowded occupations open to women, with a consequent lowering of the wage rate. And secondly, that so long as work in lead paint is unregulated for men, the danger to the race is still unmet.

Women in countries which have not ratified this convention are urged, therefore, to make it widely known and appreciated that this convention does not protect the race from a deadly poison, so long as regulations are applied to one sex only; while the danger to women of forbidding their entry to a suitable paid employment is that of lowering their status, by putting them in a separate category from other adults; lessening their choice of employment, by closing to them this paid work and so forcing them into occupations already overcrowded.

Malnutrition due to poverty arising from low wages is a racial poison just as is lead poisoning, but the latter may affect a definite limited number of workers who, however, could be protected by a proper regulation of the industry *applied to men and women alike;* the former, malnutrition, affects millions of women, and prohibitions placed on women on the ground of sex help to fasten the racial poison of poverty more firmly upon them.

Answering Miss Perkins

MARY A. MURRAY of the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Company and of the Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party, with her usual vigilance for the rights of working women, has protested against the plea of Frances Perkins, New York State Labor Commissioner, in urging that women not absolutely dependent upon their wages for a living give up their jobs during the depression.

In a letter published in the Brooklyn *Times* on March 30, Mrs. Murray said:

"Miss Frances Perkins, in private life Mrs. Paul Wilson, is like the drinking legislators who vote dry—she does not practice what she preaches. She has an able-bodied husband and children. Why doesn't she stay at home and cook for them, instead of spending part time at her job, in New York and Albany, and part time home?

"Miss Perkins takes the view that women in her own walk of life may choose a career and follow it. They may accept positions which at times call for long hours and for evening work. Provided they earn over $3,500 a year, they may combine their careers with home-making and motherhood. But even women in Miss Perkins' walk of life are not worth $3,500 a year in any position until they have acquired experience and training; so that, were women to take her seriously, there would be no place in the business world for the young married woman who has not yet acquired training and experience with a value of $3,500. We wonder if Miss Perkins considers that a man who earns less than $3,500 is also an economic failure.

"For the wage-earning woman, Miss Perkins believes that hour-limiting laws and minimum wage boards are a necessity. We women who have to work to support ourselves and our dependents have been fighting for years against the eight-hour law and no-night-work law for women only, considered by Miss Perkins necessary for the protection of our health and morals. These laws have repeatedly lost us our jobs, and we want them repealed for the protection of our bread and butter. If the bill to give the Industrial Commission power to fix a minimum wage for women becomes law, will Miss Perkins, as one of its members, stand out for a minimum of $3,500 a year?

"Unfortunately for the argument of Miss Perkins, she does not have to work, even for pin-money (which she also decries), as her husband is able to support her, whereas the vast majority of married mothers earn under $70 per week work through necessity. She can stop working, they cannot.

"Women pay taxes, out of which comes Miss Perkins' $12,000 a year, and she, as a reward, uses part of her paid time as a government employe to belittle and attack them.

"To Miss Perkins' cry of woof! woof! we reply pooh! pooh!"

Feminist Notes

Women Hold All Offices

SINCE this republic was founded men have held most of the elective offices in town, county, State, and national government. But it is news, even today, if all a town's officers are women. The village of Stephenson, Michigan, has elected women to all its offices. Grace Sanders, the candidate for village president, was apparently defeated by one vote, but a recount showed that she was the victor by a vote of 77 to 74.

In Mason County, Washington, logging center, women hold the offices of county auditor, county clerk, justice of the peace, head of the school board and the library board, and postmaster of the leading town.

Women Mustn't Eat Alone

INCIDENTS reminiscent of Tennessee and Victor Claflin in the early days in New York are occurring in London today. It will be remembered that these two bold and beautiful sisters, by solemnly taking their coachman as their escort to dinner in a fashionable restaurant, broke down by ridicule the practice of such restaurants of refusing to admit a woman to dine without a male escort.

A protest meeting was held in London on April 4, 1930, organized by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the great Catholic Feminist society in England, against the banning of unescorted women from certain restaurants.

Commenting upon the ludicrous situation, *Time and Tide,* Lady Rhondda's weekly, says:

"The rule was originally adopted by most places which still retain it during the war, to protect young officers from undesirable characters. But even then its suppositions were ridiculous: it presupposed that the only undesirable characters were women when unescorted; the male sex was always innocuous; a woman was rendered innocuous by the fact that she entered a restaurant with a man. And yet the women doctors, nurses, journalists, actresses, night-school teachers, who most frequently seek a little late refreshment, are not always provided with male escort. The idea that women in themselves are perilous is oddly reminiscent of the fulminations of Tertullian."

Russian Women Police

THE Russian police service now admits women on equal terms with men, the Commissariat for Internal Affairs having pronounced the judgment that the experiment of employing policewomen had justified itself. Formerly women were admitted to the police service on a limited percentage basis. The sole restriction now enforced is the recommendation that women shall not be sent to posts which from their very nature are apt to require the exercise of great physical strength.

For Women in the Ministry

THE Council of the Women's Missionary Society of the Southern Methodist Church, meeting in Amarillo, Texas, on March 13, adopted a resolution to petition the general conference of the church in Dallas, Texas, next May, to permit women to be ordained for the ministry on an equality with men.

Another Inequality Proposed

JUST as a campaign is launched to establish a complete equality in nationality laws of the United States, the Senate acts to establish another inequality in a closly related subject, the immigration laws.

The bill passed by the Senate gives to certain women an advantage over certain men, but the fact that it discriminates in certain instances in favor of women does not prevent it from discriminating against other women. The bill would establish non-quota immigration status for an alien woman, admissible to United States citizenship, who is the wife of a native-born citizen of the United States who was a member of the military or naval forces during the World War. Thus such a woman may be admitted to the United States without reference to the quota allowed to enter from her country.

The bill is primarily for the benefit of American men who married foreign women during their service abroad. For it to be equal as between men and women, it should also apply to a man who married a native-born American woman who was a member of the military or naval forces of the United States during the World War. There were women members of these forces. It is not known to EQUAL RIGHTS whether any of these women who served their country in the army or navy married foreigners, but if so their husbands should have the same privileges granted these wives.

To Correct an Injustice

A BILL to grant non-quota status to American-born women who lost their citizenship prior to September 22, 1922, by reason of marriage to an alien has been introduced by Representative William E. Evans of California.

This bill would allow such women to return to their native country without reference to the immigration quota of the country of which they became citizens by marriage.

It would not permit women who lost their citizenship by marriage to an alien since the passage of the Cable Act in 1922 to have non-quota status. Since that time women have lost their citizenship by marriage to aliens not eligible for American citizenship and by living abroad for certain periods, even though their husbands are eligible to citizenship.

Suffrage for Nicaraugan Women

A PROPOSED amendment to the Constitution of Nicaraugua, introduced in the Senate on March 13, would give full suffrage to women. The amendment, along with other amendments proposed, would not become effective for eight years if adopted.

South African Suffrage Bill

THE bill to grant suffrage to the women of the Union of South Africa was introduced in the South African Assembly by Premier Hertzog on March 3. It is the nineteenth occasion on which the suffrage amendment has been placed before the Parliament. It is regarded as certain of passage in the Assembly, but not so certain of victory in the Senate, according to the *Associated Press* dispatch from Capetown. Women thronged the galleries when Premier Hertzog introduced the bill.

Woman Scientist

KATHLEEN CHEVASSUT, a young pupil of Sir James Purves-Stewart, British medical authority, has discovered what may prove to be the germ of "disseminated schlerosis," according to the *Lancet,* British medical journal. This is regarded as a foremost achievement.

Women Renamed Officials

BASSETT, Alabama, is to have a "housewife" government for another two years.

Irene Tucker, Mayor for six years, and five council women were re-elected without opposition. Only two men won offices, C. B. Young being chosen treasurer and Walter Black returned as assessor.

News From the Field

Miss Paul Elected

AT a meeting of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, held at Alva Belmont House on April 12, Alice Paul was unanimously elected to membership on the Council. Miss Paul resigned from the Council some months ago in order to devote her time to preparing a treatise on the nationality laws of the various countries of the world. This book now being completed, Miss Paul has consented to serve on the Council once more.

Council Chooses Sub-Committee

A SUB-COMMITTEE of the National Council of the National Woman's Party was elected at a meeting of the Council on April 12 to act in the interim between regular meetings of the Council. All action taken by this committee must be submitted for approval at the next regular meeting of the Council. The personnel of this committee is as follows: Alice Paul, Florence Bayard Hilles, Edith Houghton Hooker, Jane Norman Smith and Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley.

Mabel Vernon Resigns

THE National Council of the National Woman's Party on April 12 accepted with regret the resignation of Mabel Vernon, formerly executive secretary. The secretary was instructed to send Miss Vernon a letter from the Council expressing appreciation for her long service and splendid work

Miss Ainge at Headquarters

EDITH AINGE, member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party from Jamestown, New York, is temporarily staying at Alva Belmont House, the Party's national headquarters. Miss Ainge was in charge of the headquarters at the Old Brick Capitol for some years.

I. C. W. to Meet in Vienna

THE International Council of Women will hold its quinquennial meeting in Vienna on May 27 to June 7. Among the resolutions on the agenda are: One calling on the National Councils to urge their governments to appoint women delegates to the Assembly of the League of Nations; a campaign for equal moral standards and against "maisons tolérées" where they still exist; one calling upon the International Council of Women to take no action in regard to "protective" legislation for women without first consulting the working women's organizations concerned, and one calling upon National Councils to observe the same rule.

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

EMMA WOLD, *Treasurer*

NETTIE TRAIL, C. P. A., *Auditor*

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to March 31, 1930, $1,652,536.45.

Contributions, membership and other receipts, April 1 to 15, 1930:

Mrs. Letitia F. Snow, D. C	$10.00
Miss Sara P. Grogan, D. C	10.00
Miss Lavinia L. Dock, Pa	5.00
Miss Jessie Dell, D. C	50.00
Mrs. John Winters Brannan, N. Y	170.00
Mrs. Elizabeth T. Kent, Cal	100.00
Mrs. Eunice McClung Burks, Md	1.00
Miss Mabel Vernon, Del	5.00
Miss Jennie E. Precker, N. J	10.00
"A Friend," Mo	5.00
Miss Melita B. Spelshouse, D. C	1.00
Massachusetts Branch, Headquarters share dues for following members (Branch retains dues in excess of 25c each):	
Mrs. Charles E. Heitman	.25
Miss Grace S. Wallace	.25
Mrs. George Shaw Cooke	.25
Mrs. Ruth D. Beales	.25
Miss Helen Leighton	.25
Dr. Mary Johnson	.25
Mrs. Genevieve M. Fuller	.25
Miss A. Marguerite Smith	.25
Miss Alma Lutz	.25
Refunds	19.12
Sale of miscellaneous articles	2.12
Rooms at Headquarters:	
Mrs. Max Rotter	45.00
Total receipts, April 1 to 15, 1930	$435.49
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to April 15, 1930	$1,652,971.94

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

Of EQUAL RIGHTS, published weekly at Baltimore, Md., for April 1, 1930.

State of Maryland) ss.
City of Baltimore)

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Dora G. Ogle, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Business Manager of EQUAL RIGHTS, and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in Section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are:
Publisher, National Woman's Party, 19 West Chase street, Baltimore, Md.
Editor, Edith Houghton Hooker, Upland, Roland Park, Md.
Manager Editor, Ruby A. Black, 144 B St. N. E., Washington, D. C.
Business Manager, Dora G. Ogle, Catonsville, Md.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)
President, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, N. Y. Chairman National Council, Mrs. Harvey Wiley, D. C. Vice-Chairmen, Gail Laughlin, Me.; Florence Bayard Hilles, Del.; Anita Pollitzer, S. C. Secretary, A. Marguerite Smith, N. Y. Executive Secretary, Mabel Vernon, Del. Treasurer, Emma Wold, Ore. Congressional Chairman, Maud Younger, Cal. Legislative Secretary, Emma Wold, Ore. Parliamentarian, Emma Fox, Mich.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)
There are none.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by her.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date shown above is: (This information is required from daily publications only.)

DORA G. OGLE,
Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22d day of April, 1930. DONALD LEIGH BURNS.
(My commission expires May 6, 1931.)

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